

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

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SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA REACTION TO AID CUTOFF

1. THE CUT-OFF OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY FEBRUARY 5
RECEIVED EXTREMELY HEAVY COVERAGE IN THE TURKISH MEDIA OVER
THE LAST 24 HOURS. ALMOST ALL PAPERS USED BANNER HEADLINES
TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE CUT-OFF. MOST STORIES,
INCLUDING EXTENSIVE REPORTS ON RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS
PROGRAMS, FOCUSSED ON STATEMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER SADI IRMAK
AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT
(SEE SEPTELS). HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, WEDNESDAY
MORNING (FEB. 5) CARRIED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER MELIH ESENBEL (SEE SEPTTEL) IN WHICH HE
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REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT THE AID CUT-OFF ENDANGERS TURKEY'S

ABILITY TO FULFILL HER NATO RESPONSIBILITIES AND ALSO HAMPERS EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

2. STORIES IN MANY PAPERS STRESS THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY OPPOSED THE CUT-OFF AND THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT LAY WITH CONGRESS.

3. THE MAJOR ISTANBUL DAILY MILLIYET, FOR EXAMPLE, GAVE TOP

FRONT PAGE PLAY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT TUESDAY (FEB. 4) TO NEWSMEN DEPLORING THE CUT-OFF.

4. MOST STORIES ADHERED CLOSELY TO THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY OFFICIALS NOTED ABOVE. HOWEVER, HURRIYET REPORTED WITHOUT CITING SOURCES THAT AMONG ACTIONS BEING CONTEMPLATED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WERE THE SENDING HOME OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL CONCERNED WITH AID, CALLING A MEETING OF THE NATO DEFENSE COMMITTEE, CANCELLATION OF SIXTH FLEET VISITS TO TURKEY, REVIEW OF TURKEY'S DEFENSE COMMITMENTS AND CANCELLATION OF AN ESENBEL-KISSINGER MEETING.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT WEDNESDAY (FEB. 5) WAS EXTENSIVE AND LARGELY ANGRY IN TONE. MOST WRITERS FOCUSED ON THE ACTION TURKEY SHOULD TAKE IN THE FACE OF THE CUT-OFF. SENSATIONALIST, MASS CIRCULATION GUNAYDIN COLUMNIST NECATI ZINCIRKIRAN DECLARED THAT THE GREEKS AND PRO-GREEK U.S. CONGRESSMEN WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CUT-OFF. HE RECOMMENDED THAT TURKEY SHOULD NOW DECLARE THE TURKISH ZONE OF CYPRUS AN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC AND URGED THAT THE STATUS OF AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY BE "REVISED" UNTIL THE U.S. CONGRESS RELENTS. ALSO IN GUNAYDIN, COLUMNIST TEOMEN EREL WARNED THAT THE CUT-OFF COULD LEAD TO "AN EXPLOSION OF ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING."

6. COMMENTATORS IN SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING LEFT-WING CUMHURİYET, THE RPP UNOFFICIAL DAILY, BARIS, DECLARE THAT TURKEY MAY BENEFIT IN THE LONG RUN BY DISENTANGLING HERSELF FROM UNDEPENDABLE ALLIES. BOTH PAPERES ASSERT THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE U.S. BENEFITED MORE THAN TURKEY FROM THE ALLIANCE CONNECTION.

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7. PERHAPS THE DAY'S MOST MODERATE REACTION APPEARED IN MILLIYET, WHOSE EDITOR, ABDI IPEKCI, ASSERTED THAT TURKEY COULD FIND ALTERNATIVE ARMS SUPPLIERS AND THAT THE AID-CUT COULD RECTIFY TURKEY'S EXCESSIVE DEPENDENCE ON THE U.S. BUT IPEKCI WARNED THAT, IN REVIEWING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., TURKEY MUST NOT PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE GREEKS WHO WOULD WELCOME A RUPTURE IN THESE RELATIONS.
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